(ONGC) is engaged in hydrocarbon exploration and production (E&P) activities abroad. At present OVL has been participating in the following overseas projects;

(i) Block 06.1 offshore gas project in Vietnam, with 45% participating interest.

(ii) Sakkalin-I oil and gas project in Russia, with 20% participating interest.

(iii) Block A-I offshore gas project in Myanmar, with 20% participating interest.

(iv) Exploration Block 8 in Iraq with 100% participating interest.

OVL is also pursuing E&P opportunities in some countries like Sudan, Oman, Libya, Kazakhstan, Indonesia and Venezuela.

LPG dealership in rural areas

3205. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG distributorship presently operating in Andhra Pradesh, Oil PSU-wise;

(b) the number of distributors catering the consumers of semi-urban and rural areas of the State, company-wise;

(c) whether the rural and far off areas of the State require more distributors; and

(d) if so, the action taken by each oil company in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) As on 1.1.2002, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), were operating 664 LPG distributorships in the State of Andhra Pradesh including 55 LPG distributorships in rural category and 23 in urban/rural category.

(c) and (d) OMCs have planned to set up 260 more LPG distributorships in rural category under various marketing plans in the State of Andhra Pradesh to increase the necessary infrastructure for adequate supply of LPG in rural areas.